G.A.R.

1866

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

THE CLARION CALL

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

VOLUME No. II ISSUE No. I APRIL 2003

S.U.V.C.W.

1881

Fallen headstones at the Long Island cemetery. Many have been crushed, broken and plowed under.

Long Island Cemetery Devastated!

by Bill Ryerson
Department Secretary

Dept. Senior Vice Commander John Bates, Dept. Junior Vice Commander Kevin Tucker, and Dept. Secretary Bill Ryerson met with Boston's Commissioner of Veteran's Services, Thomas Materazzo and Daniel Lynch, District Representative for United States Congressman Stephen Lynch, on March 20th, 2003, to discussed the appalling condition of the cemetery on Long Island in Boston Harbor, where some 82 Union Veterans are buried.

Because the City of Boston limits access to the island, which is used by the city for, among other things, a homeless shelter and a police firing range, the cemetery has become a forgotten and neglected area, with every gravestone fallen, (and many crushed, broken or buried). Through years of neglect, weeds and brush had overgrown the area and, in an apparent effort to clear the brush, the cemetery was devastated by the use of heavy equipment.

The condition of the cemetery was brought to the attention of the Department by Camp 104 JVC Al Barton, who initiated a drive to restore the gravesites and, at the Department Meeting on January 11th, 2003, DJVC and Camp 104 Commander, Kevin Tucker, volunteered on behalf of Camp 104 to take the project on. Shortly thereafter, DJVC Tucker and Al Barton made a tour of the site, and it was apparent that much more than some yard work would be necessary in order to restore the cemetery.

After contacting the city to inquire as to plans for restoration, DJVC Tucker sent a letter to Congressman Lynch, requesting assistance in developing a plan to either restore the cemetery or to explore the possibility of having the remains of the Soldiers moved to the Veterans Administration National Cemetery, in Bourne, MA, where the gravesites would be assured of perpetual care.

Congressman Lynch's office responded within a few days, and set up the meeting with Commissioner Materazzo, District Representative Daniel Lynch and the Department officers. After discussion on the possibility of moving the Soldier's remains to the National Cemetery in Bourne, it was determined that, due to the cost and some of the legal issues surrounding the moving of remains, it was more practical to focus efforts on the restoration of the cemetery. The erection of a new memorial to the Veterans, once the cemetery is restored, was also discussed.

Plans were made for Commissioner Materazzo, District Representative Lynch and SUV Department officers to meet again for a walking tour of the Long Island site to survey the damage, as soon as the weather permits.

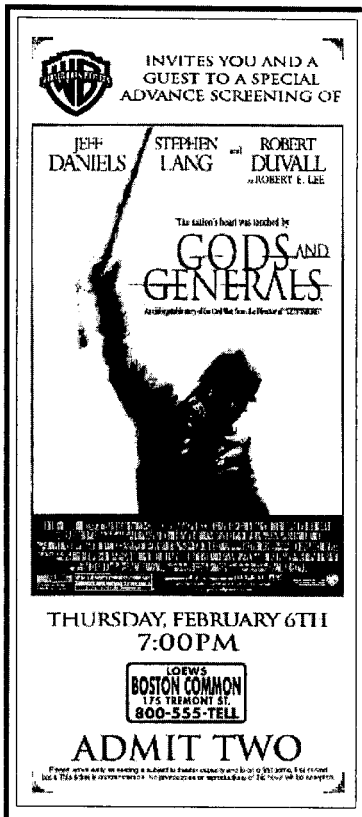
The Department is very hopeful that the restoration can be commenced soon, and is grateful for the efforts of Commissioner Materazzo and the office of Congressman Stephen Lynch.

Contact the Editors at: THE CLARION CALL 14 Crestview Terrace Gloucester, MA 01930 Email: signals@suvmass.org

WHAT A WEEK IT WAS!

Department of Mass. Holds Week of Civil War Events at South Station

The Department of Massachusetts and South Station sponsored wonderful a series of Civil War events at Boston's Historic South Station, which was kicked off on February 6th with a premiere screening of Ron Maxwell's movie "Gods and Generals", a prequel to the 1993 movie "Gettysburg", courtesy of Warner Brothers and Allied Advertising.



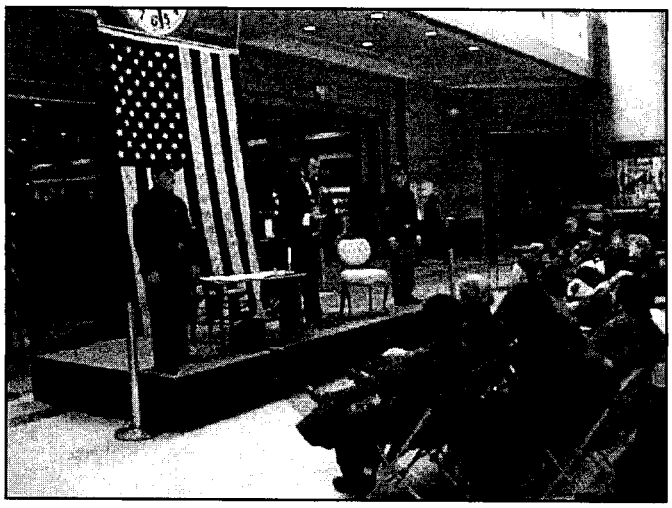
Ticket for the premiere of "Gods and Generals", Feb.6th.

GODS and GENERALS: Over 150 S.U.V. Members, Civil War Reenactors, Civil War Roundtable Members and others from across the state arrived at the Lowes Theaters Boston Common to be among the first to view the film. Many of those in attendance participated as extras in the making of the, and a vociferous "whoop!" went up whenever the reenactors saw themselves on the big screen. It was a terrific night and a very special event, enjoyed by all.

THIRD ANNUAL BRUNCH in CELEBRATION of the LIFE and DEEDS of PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN: On Sunday, February 9th, the Department of Massachusetts and the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry held its "Annual Brunch in Celebration of the Life and Deeds of President Abraham Lincoln" at South Station. Aside from the fabulous food and splendid conversation, an interesting and entertaining presentation, titled "The Last Time They Buried Lincoln" was given by Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston Vice President Al Smith, who captivated everyone with his explanation of why President Lincoln's body was disinterred and buried 17 times!

Food and fun at the Lincoln Brunch.

STATE of the UNION: Not to be outdone by his "kid brother", on Monday, February 10th, Dave Smith, also of the Round Table of Greater Boston, presented a talk on "The State of the Union: 1862 vs. Today" to the lunch time crowd at South Station. While Dave spoke, informational and recruiting tables were set up, and we received a great deal of interest in our organizations. A large amount of printed material on the organization was distributed to the public, and we hope to be welcoming some new members in the near future.



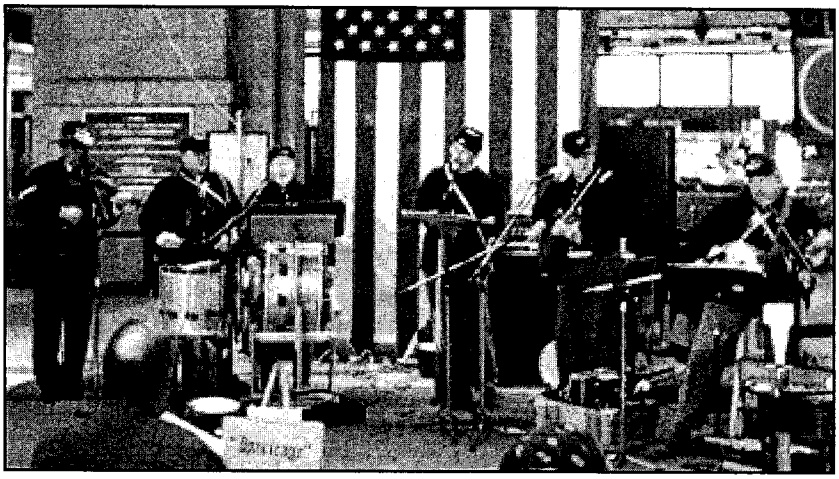
Lewis Dubé performs as Lincoln at South Station

LEWIS DUBÉ as ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Wednesday, February 12th was President Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and the event was celebrated with the appearance of Lewis Dubé at South Station, as President Abraham Lincoln, in a spectacular one-man show, "Reflections On My Presidency". Mr. Dubé held the audience spellbound for an hour as he captured President Lincoln's righteousness, determination, humor and sadness. It was a remarkable event, and the Department continues to receive correspondence thanking us for sponsoring the event, with a great deal of praise for the marvelous acting abilities of Mr. Dubé. A note of thanks goes to Richard Engebretson and Richard Eccleston, Jr. of the 11th Mass. Infantry and Camp 104, who were at South Station at 6:30 AM, in uniform, to hand out flyers for the event, and stayed to assist Mr. Dubé as "Lincoln's Bodyguards" during the show. Once again, the folks visiting

WHAT A WEEK IT WAS! (continued)

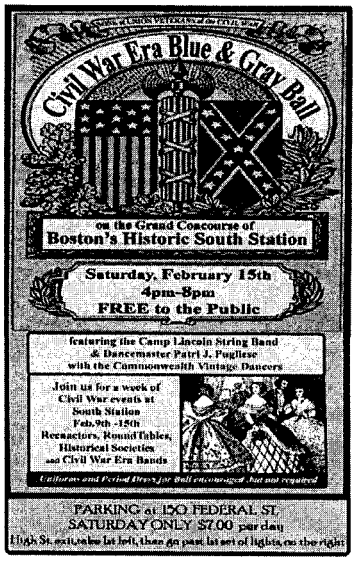
recruiting tables were expressing a great deal of enthusiasm in Civil War history, and a great deal of interest was stirred by the informative conversations by all those manning the tables. Along with the SUV, representatives of the Olde Colony and Greater Boston Civil War Roundtables were on hand, and the many of the visitors were captivated by an astonishing display of Civil War items presented by the 9th Mass. Battery.

THE COMMON SOLDIER: The Sumter Rifles followed on Thursday, with a great display of Civil War "accoutrements", items which the common Civil War soldier on either side would have carried along with them during the war. They also gave an interesting talk on, "The Common Soldier: in Camp and in Battle", which gave the audience an insight as to what the life as an average Civil War soldier was like, explained as "99% boredom and 1% sheer terror". It was a great event, and sparked a great deal of conversation and interest.



The Heritage String Band performs at South Station on St. Valentine's Day

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT: Friday, February 14th was St. Valentine's Day, and accordingly, South Station visitors were treated to a two hour performance of "Music from the Civil War" by the amazing Heritage String Band. The performance included wonderful narrations concerning how the songs related to the events taking place in the country before, during and after the Civil War, and the song list included music which spanned three decades of the Civil War era, from the 1850s to the 1870s. The crowd joined in to clap and sing along with the band and the event was a great success, keeping the recruiting tables busy giving out information and printed materials.


Civil War Era Blue & Gray Ball
on the Grand Concourse of
Boston's Historic South Station
Saturday, February 15th
4pm-8pm
FREE to the Public
featuring the Camp Lincoln String Band
& Dancemaster Patri J. Pugliese
with the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers
Join us for a week of
Civil War events at
South Station
Feb. 9th -15th
Reenactors, Round Tables,
Historical Societies
and Civil War Era Bands
Uniforms and Period Dress for Ball encouraged, but not required
PARKING at 100 FEDERAL ST.
SATURDAY ONLY $7.00 per day

Poster for South Station ball.

GRAND BALL: The climax to the week of Civil War events came on Saturday afternoon, February 15th, when the Blue and Gray Ball was held on the Grand Concourse at South Station. Gentlemen in their Civil War uniforms or period civilian clothing danced into the evening with their lovely ladies, who were dressed in their finest period gowns. Dancemaster Patri Pugliese and the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers gave instruction on the various Victorian ball dances, as the Camp Lincoln String Band performed the wonderful Civil War era dance music. Many members of the public joined in to dance with those in period dress as great fun, (and a few sore toes) was had by all. (More pictures of the ball on next page.)

Reeling the night away at the Civil War Ball at South Station

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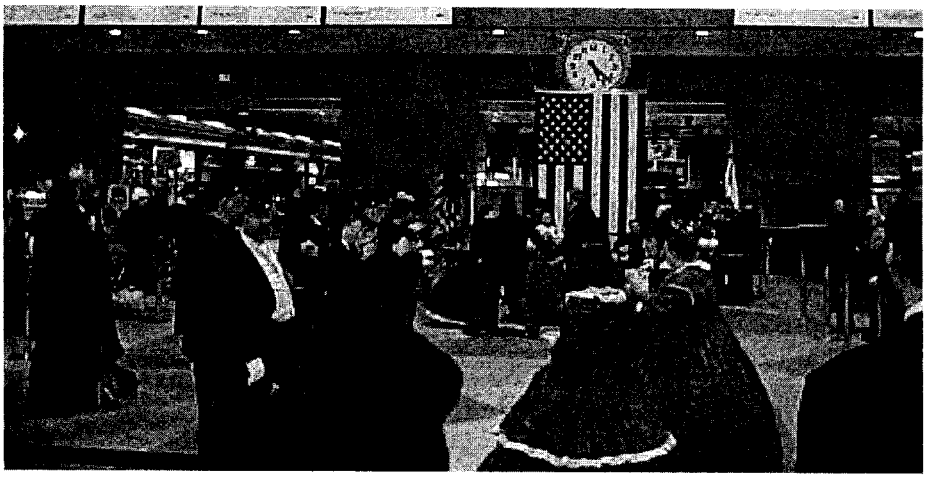
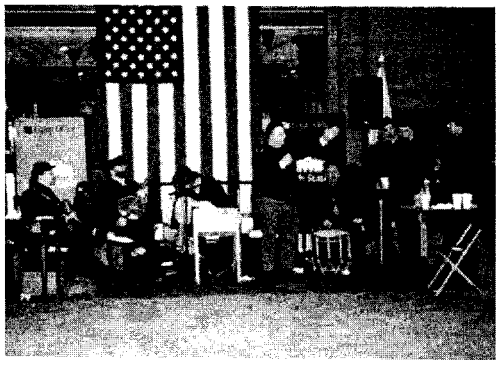
CIVIL WAR BALL AT SOUTH STATION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 2003





"Minutemen of 1861" Medals Thief To Write Book Report

story courtesy of Douglass R. Knight, C.C. of Camp 162

The Associated Press reports that Dana G. Essingman of Framingham, a 42 year old former Archivist at the National Guard Military Museum in Worcester, MA, plead guilty to 13 counts of larceny, including the theft of rare Civil War medals of the Massachusetts Minutemen of 1861 and some Civil War discharge papers.

Essingman reportedly told police that he had stolen thousands of dollars worth of artifacts, which he then sold to collectors for between $2500 and $3000, because he needed cash to pay off thousands in gambling debts, after receiving pressure from his "bookie".

According to the report, Worcester Assistant District Attorney James Lemire stated that all of the items for which Essingman plead guilty to stealing, were recovered. However, there is still some unspecified property missing from the museum, and prosecutors will be speaking to Essingman in hopes of recovering these items.

Worcester Superior Court Judge Francis Fecteau told Essingman, upon sentencing, "This is a crime against honor, and you have dishonored yourself," Judge Fecteau placed Essingman on two years probation and ordered him to read "We Were Soldiers Once...and Young" by Harold Moore, an account of the first significant engagement between American troops and the Viet Cong, in the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam in 1965, where 450 U.S. soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry found themselves surrounded and outnumbered by their enemy. The judge ordered Essingman to write a report on the book and submit it to the court.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 11, SERIES 2002-2003

ROBERT E. GRIM, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

1. Effective May 1, 2003 all Camps and Departments are directed to use only the most current version of authorized SUVCW forms when filing membership applications and reports with the National Secretary and Executive Director. The most current version of all SUVCW forms are available on the SUVCW web site (suvcw.org) and can easily be downloaded. Those who cannot access the web site may request a copy of the necessary application or form from the Executive Director.

2. All applications, forms and reports must be legible and completed in accordance with the directions or instructions pertaining to the application, form or report.

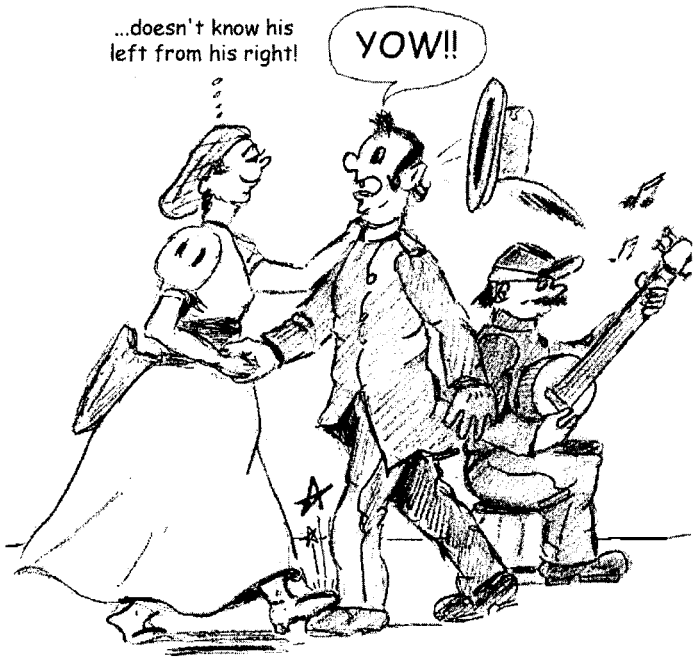
3. Any application, form or report that does not meet this directive will be rejected by the National Secretary or Executive Director and returned to the originating Camp or Department.

Ordered this Thirteenth day of March, 2003.

By Order of:	Attest:
Commander-in-Chief	Edward Krieser, PCincC
Robert E. Grim	National Secretary

On the Lighter Side...

DJVC TUCKER: "LOUT OF THE DANCE"



Cartoon by Frank Tucker

Massachusetts Civil War Trivia

by Frank Tucker
Camp 104

1. At the 1860 Democratic National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina, what future Union General voted 57 times to nominate Jefferson Davis as the Democratic candidate for President of the United States?

2. In spite of his having said that the United States needed a military dictator to run the country during the Civil War, what military leader was promoted to command the Army, by President Lincoln?

3. Which member of a prominent Massachusetts family was chosen by President Lincoln to serve in the vital post of Minister to England, and was charged with preventing England from recognizing the Confederacy as an independent nation?

4. What Union Army Captain and future Supreme Court Justice, upon seeing a tall civilian, (later identified to him as President Lincoln) expose himself to bullets during an enemy action shouted, "Get down, you fool!"?

5. What famous artist began his career as a newspaper illustrator for Harper's Weekly, sketching battle and camp scenes?

ANSWERS: 1. Benjamin Butler. 2. Brig. Gen. Joseph Hooker. 3. Charles Francis Adams, Sr. 4. Oliver Wendell Holmes. 5. Homer Winslow

CAPT. WILLIAM READ

My Civil War Ancestor

A Yankee Mariner
Captain William Read

By John R. Gardiner
William L. S. Tabor Camp No. 162

I grew up in the southeastern Massachusetts town of Seekonk, not far from my Mother's ancestral home located on the Assonet River, in the town of Freetown. In the years before the "War of Rebellion", Assonet Village was home to a bustling little manufacturing center featuring iron hollow-ware, shoes and a gun factory. With direct access to the Taunton River and Narragansett Bay, shipbuilding was also conducted there.

As a young boy growing up in the fifties, I vividly remember spending many a Sunday afternoon visiting my Aunt's home on the Assonet River. At that time, the home had been in my Mother's family for many generations. The home was festooned with many antiques and heirlooms dating back to the 1700s. But the ones I remember most were connected to the Sea. These nautical gems belonged to my Great-grandfather, Captain William Read.

There was the Captain's spyglass, the one depicted in the oil portrait of the Captain that hung in the dining room. Many times I held that heavy glass and scanned the waters seeking real and imagined wooden ships of the line. There were the two old ivory handled ornate swords, which I envisioned the Captain boldly brandished in defense of his ship. There was also the whalebone walking stick and the hand-forged harpoon. As for the latter two items, nobody seems to know how they arrived at the house. For you see, Captain Read was not a whaler. He plied the costal trade, sailing up and down the eastern seaboard, carrying lumber, dry goods and ice between the seaports.

At the end of April 1861, the Captain's vessel was docked in Darien, Georgia, just below South Carolina, and another hotbed of secession. While loading a cargo of lumber, the Captain overheard a plan to seize his ship the next day. So, in the dead of night, he silently guided his ship down the river and out to sea. It was reported that his vessel was one of the last to escape the South after the firing on Fort Sumter. When he returned home, he found that his son, Edward, had gone south with Company G of the 3rd Massachusetts Volunteer Militia.

Later, Captain Read was appointed Acting Ensign and Pilot on the ironclad U.S.S. Passaic, and saw action off of Charleston, South Carolina, as part of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. The Captain was 55 years old when he volunteered his services to save the Union. The Captain's other son, Charles, and my Great-grandfather who had been with him in Darien, Georgia, enlisted in the 58th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

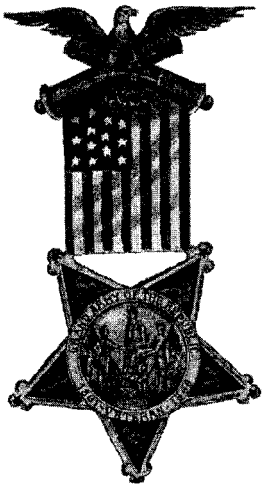
The Captain served until June 13th, 1865, when his services were no longer needed. After the war, he returned to his old maritime profession. He died tragically on July 8, 1870, in Assonet Bay, when he drowned attempting to prevent his ship from running aground in a Summer gale.

As for that spyglass, it and the oil portrait now hold a prominent spot in the entranceway of the Freetown Historical Society Museum, on Bullock Road in Freetown, Massachusetts.

Editor's Note: "My Civil War Ancestor" is a regular feature in The Clarion Call. Members of the Department of Massachusetts are strongly encouraged to submit a story relating to and photograph of, (if available) their Civil War Ancestor to the The Clarion Call for future publication.

The 121st Annual Encampment of the
Department of Massachusetts
will be held at the
Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center
on Cedar Lake
366 Main Street, Sturbridge, Massachusetts
Friday, May 9th and Saturday, May 10th, 2003
SUVCW Room Rate: $94 per night (double occupancy)
Make Your Reservations by April 9th: (508) 347-7393

G.A.R.



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VISIT THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS WEBSITE AT
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